

# 2022 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT SURVIVOR SUPPORT AND PREVENTION GRANTS

## FAQ

Updated November 5, 2021

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**Q: We are trying to address the RFP requirements regarding income level. However, we do not track income for the families we serve so do not have any data for this. This is because we serve children and they don't have incomes and we find most families we work with have already had past experience with family services and are sensitive to giving that information out. We don't want them to feel that the quality of services they receive is based on income. There is great income disparity in our region and we are definitely serving economically disadvantaged families. We are in great need of an advocate position with the increased severity of child abuse cases and delayed court proceedings due to the pandemic. What is your advice?**

**A:** We encourage you to make your case in the application for what you DO know about the families you serve. Additionally, you could state that you will assess individual family circumstances and prioritize this funding to serve those families who are economically disadvantaged. The reviewers may find your case compelling especially due to the severity of abuse cases you're seeing.

### Added October 27, 2021

**Q: Are these dollars renewable after March, 2023?**

**A:** No, there is no plan to renew these grants.

**Q: How often can reimbursement be requested? How often will reimbursements be sent to grantees?**

**A:** Requests can be made quarterly, monthly, or every two weeks. Once the request is approved payments get sent to grantees quickly.

**Q: How do we get signed up to review or refer others to be reviewers?**

**A:** Use this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L55PCSN>

**Q: Could organizations submit grants as a collaboration?**

A: Yes, but one organization will be named as the official grant applicant; they will be responsible for the grant and can sub-grant/contract with partner agencies.

**Q: Will the Info Session PowerPoint be shared with attendees?**

A: No, the PowerPoint will be posted on our grants page along with the FAQ.

**Q: What if we are a small agency and don't have an accounting method? So far, we just need a check book.**

A: That is ok; just answer all the questions asked. We use this information to determine what level of monitoring and technical assistance will be needed.

**Q: Do all questions in item 4 on page 10 need to be answered yes?**

A: You will still be eligible if you cannot answer all these questions “yes;” we use this information to determine what level of monitoring and technical assistance will be needed.

**Q: What about the Innovation in Community Safety RFP? Has the RFP been released yet?**

A: This RFP has not been released yet. This state appropriation includes some logistical challenges which we are working out before we can release the RFP. This will be a broad community safety RFP which includes the development of Community Advisory Boards to be involved with proposal review. If you sign up for our emailing list on our website you will be notified when it is released.

**Q: The employment landscape is tough right now, could these funds include ideas to boost hiring since its time limited – like offering a hiring bonus?**

A: We will check on this question and post it in the FAQ when we get an answer. Bonuses are not allowed with our other federal funding, but these funds may allow it. You could offer “hazard pay” as an option during the grant period for those positions directly working with clients. That would be an eligible expense related to Covid-19.

**Q: Do all clients served under the grant need to be part of a traditionally underserved population? Or is it sufficient that the services funded under the grant are primarily intended for traditionally underserved populations and clients primarily identify that way? Does this differ by purpose area?**

A: Services should be primarily intended for traditionally underserved populations and economically disadvantaged communities. See section 1.5 “Eligible Applicants and Target Populations” for specific requirements. Yes, this varies a bit depending on the Purpose A, B or C. Purpose area A also prioritizes victims/survivors based on economic need and juveniles in addition to traditionally underserved populations in economically disadvantaged communities.

**Q: If we are meeting the economically disadvantaged requirement through the 60% area median income test, do all clients served under the grant need to meet that test? Or is it sufficient that the services funded under the grant are primarily intended for people under 60% of the area median income and clients primarily meet that test?**

A: Yes, it is sufficient that the services funded are primarily intended for traditionally underserved populations and economically disadvantaged communities. Further, by “primarily intended,” that means the services are focused to meet the specific needs of the population.

**Q: Two ways to meet the economically disadvantaged requirement (60% area median income and at least 25% below federal poverty) refer to eligibility requirements. We don’t have financial eligibility requirements for most of our programs; most clients served in the past meet the 60% AML income test; well over 25% meet the 100% of poverty test. Is it sufficient to prioritize clients meeting the income test, as long as actual clients show that most clients served meet the 60% AML income test or more than 25% meet the 100% of poverty test?**

A: We encourage you to include data you already have about the clients and community you serve, and data on your region of the state. Try to make your case with the data you have. Ultimately services should be primarily intended for traditionally underserved populations and economically disadvantaged communities but anyone should be served with federal funds.

**Q: Do we need to submit source documentation only if requested for a financial desk review or with each FSR?**

A: Source documentation needs to be kept so that it is available for a desk review at some point during the grant period. Source documentation does not need to be submitted with each request for reimbursement, for review prior to receiving reimbursement.

**Q: Can funds under purpose B be used for violence prevention and healthy relationship programs for middle and high school students?**

A: You should make your case as to how that project meets the purpose area. This funding is intended for “crime victim service needs” and any programming you conduct with the grant funds should address crime victimization.

**Added October 21, 2021**

**Q: If we apply, can we apply for multiple areas in the same application? For example, both DCA (a) and DV transformation programming (c). Or would we need to do two separate applications?**

A: You may apply for multiple areas in one application.

**Q: We have not historically tracked household income. However, we feel confident that we can assume we'll meet at least one of the requirements for serving economically disadvantaged communities. Is it okay if we answer this without clear data from past services or do we need that sort of data in order to apply? To be clear, we've researched all the requirements, we just don't know for certain the percentage of past program participants that have meet those requirements.**

A: We encourage you to include data you already have about the clients and community you serve, and data on your region of the state. Try to make your case with the data you have.

**Q: We work with youth experiencing homelessness. We are not a shelter. Many of the youth we work with have experienced DV/SA. Could we write this grant proposals to fund a portion of a caseworker's salary who works with Sexually Exploited Youth?**

A: Yes, that would be option B, for you to make your case this being an unmet need.

**Q: Does juveniles mean minors or include youth under 25?**

A: Yes, you may use youth up to age 25 as a definition for juveniles.

**Q: If we're submitting for multiple categories can we choose to submit separate applications to have enough space to explain our project if needed? Or do we just do one?**

A: If you submit more than one application you will be competing with yourself. It is in your best interest to do a combination application. Use headers within each narrative section so it's clear to reviewers what you are explaining.

**Q: Would IT equipment and services be an eligible cost if we can show that it will help us expand our service capacity to serve more crime victims as a result of COVID?**

A: Yes. Explain how this is needed to address unmet needs.

**Q: Are joint applications eligible- two different agencies applying together?**

A: Yes, however you must choose one of the agencies to be the applicant. That agency would be the legal recipient of the grant if your project is awarded.

**Q: Is funding for legal services for victims of crime an eligible request?**

A: Yes. Make your case in your application that legal services is an unmet need and explain your plan to address it.

**Q: Is a pilot program fundable if it fits other requirements? And should we state it's a pilot program?**

A: Yes. The RFP is silent on this, so you may apply for a pilot program. It is recommended that you state this clearly in the application to reduce any confusion for grant reviewers.

**Q: What is typical funding request for organization under 100K budget currently.**

A: We do not have an answer for a "typical funding request." Be clear in your application about your capacity to manage the funding and programming.

**Q: This is my first time writing a grant. Do I need to hire a grant writer?**

A: That would be up to you. Completing the application does not require a professional grant writer. Be thorough in your response to every question, and all required aspects of the application. Pay close attention to each question in the RFP. If there are missing parts of the application narrative you will be scored less and that will impact your potential for being funded. Contact the point person listed in the RFP if you need technical help. Do not wait until the last afternoon on the day it's due to submit it in case there are technical difficulties.

**Added October 15, 2021**

**Q: Is this grant available to support existing programs?**

A: This grant is available to support existing programs that currently provide services to people who have experienced harm due to crime, or programs that provide domestic abuse transformative justice programming. See section *1.5 Eligible Applicants and Target Populations* of the RFP for more information.

**Q: We are looking to expand a trauma based counseling group for male identified youth to include a prevention program. Would this be a fit for this RFP?**

A: Look in the Program Description (1.2) section where it clearly states this funding is for crime victim service providers. If the trauma recovery work your program provides is related to harm experienced through crime (related to domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse or other general crime), then this could fit.

**Q: Is there a definition for who falls under underserved populations/communities?**

A: The RFP has a two-fold requirement: traditionally underserved populations in economically disadvantaged communities. Traditionally underserved populations/communities includes BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Communities of Color), gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender/queer (GLBTQ), immigrant/refugee, Deaf/hard of hearing, persons with disabilities, elders and youth.